



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,848	09/29/2005	Ling Wang	US02 0306 US	9363
24737 7590 06/30/2009 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER TRINH, TAN H				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2618				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/30/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/526,848

Applicant(s)

WANG, LING

Examiner

TAN TRINH

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04-21-2009.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Josephsoon (U.S. Pub. 2008/0034331) in view of Haupt (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0042282).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Josephsoon teaches a lighting control network (150 and 250) (see fig. 1B and 2A-B), comprising: a remote control unit (152, 220 and 252) having a RF signal transmitter and a RF signal receiver (see fig. 1B, 2A-B, remote control unit (152, 220, and 252) is communication with MDS (102 or 202) via a wireless communication pathway or with two way link (160, 260 or 234) (fig. 1B and 2B on page 10, section [0106] and page 11, section [0110]); and a plurality of lighting control units (202s) with wireless RF connection (160 or 260) (see fig. 1B and 2B, page 10, section [0106] and page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12), each of the lighting control units (102s or 202s) having a RF signal transmitter, a RF signal receiver (see fig. 1B and 2B, page 10, section [0106] and page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12). In this case, the wireless communication in RF link is well known in the art or inherently disclosed transmitter and receiver for communicating. And a lighting unit (110 or 210) associated therewith (see fig. 1B and 2B), wherein the remote control unit (152 and 252 or 220) and the plurality of lighting control units (102s and 202s) are configured in a master-slave oriented network (see fig. 1B and 2B), one of the plurality of lighting control units (102 or 202) and the central control unit (152 or

252) being configured as a master in the network (150 or 250) (see fig. 1B and 2B, master is the control (152 or 252); and remaining lighting control units (102s or 202s) of the plurality of lighting units and the remote control unit (220) being configured as slaves in the network (see fig. 1B or 2B, page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12). In this case, the central control unit (152 or 252) of lighting control unit is configured in a master lighting control, and lighting control units (102s or 202s) configured is slave oriented network. Since one or more devices coupled to a network may serve as a controller for one or more other devices coupled to the network (e.g., in a master/slave relationship). But Josephsoon does not mention the plurality of lighting control units (102s and 202s) communicating bi-directionally with each other via a RF wireless link.

However, the related art Haupt teaches the master remote unit (1) (central unit 1), and plurality of mobile apparatus 4-9 (slave) which are in the form of transmitting and/or receiving devices and which in part transmit data and/or signals to the central unit (1) (master unit), The mobile apparatus 4-9 each have a respective control module equipped with transmitting and/or receiving functionality, for direct or in-direct bidirectional communication with each other, and can be central controlled by the master central unit. In this case, the central control unit is a master remote control, the mobile apparatus 4-9 control units is a slave remote control, since each of slave remote control 4-9 can bidirectional communication with each other with command by the central control unit (see fig. 1, Master remote control (1) communication on command to the remote control slave (10), then the remote control (10) communication with other control unit 6 and 6, see page 2-3, sections [0029-0033]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify above teaching of Mosebrook with Haupt, in order to provide

directly or indirectly controlled by the central unit (master unit) (see suggested by Haupt on page 2, section [0029]).

Regarding claims 2 and 12, Josephsoon teaches a sensor (906) for sensing a parameter and transmitting a status of the parameter (902) to the master (908 of 900) (see page 14, section [0129-0131]).

Regarding claims 3 and 13, Josephsoon teaches the sensor is selected from the group consisting of: an ambient light sensor, a motion sensor, an occupancy sensor, a temperature sensor, and a combination thereof (see fig. 3A, page 13-14, sections [0126 and 0129-0131]).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Josephsoon teaches the sensor communicates via a RF wireless link with the master (see page 9, section [0096]). In this case, the sensor communicates via a RF wireless link with the master, since the control lighting fixtures remotely without rewiring, and the occupancy sensor input/output device communication with master with RF signal.

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Josephsoon teaches the master (252 of 202) is one of the plurality of lighting control units (202s) and controls the lighting unit associated therewith in response to receiving the status of the parameter (see fig. 2B, page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12, section [0113], and see page 9, sections [0096-0100]).

Regarding claims 6 and 16, Josephsoon teaches a user interface (224) control on the remote control unit (220) is associated with at least one of the plurality of lighting control units (202) (see page 11, section [0110]).

Regarding claims 7 and 17, Josephsoon teaches the slaves (202s) communicate directly with the master (252) via RF wireless communication (see fig. 2B, page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12, section [0113]).

Regarding claims 9 and 19, Josephsoon teaches the network combines a RF communication protocol and a lighting control protocol (see fig. 2B, page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12, section [0113], and see any hard selection protocol on page 6, sections [0072-0073, 0076-0078], and page 16, section [0148]). In this case, the communication protocol is between mater and slave assignment command on-off status bit map is the lighting control protocol, and the RF wireless link of the communication RF communication protocol.

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Josephsoon teaches a mechanism for selecting back-up to the master (252 of 202) (see fig. 2A-B, page 11, sections [0111 and 0113]). In this case, the mater (252) is selected from the (control units (202), therefore the control unit (202) can be back-up controller for master (252) to controlling the system.

3. Claims 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Josephsoon (U.S. Pub. 2008/0034331) in view of Haupt (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0042282) further in view of Crookham (U.S. Pub. No. 2007/0171028).

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Josephsoon teaches the master (252 of 202) is one of the plurality of lighting control units (202s). But Josephsoon does not mention a central control master for interfacing multiple instances of the lighting control network together.

However, Crookham teaches a central control master (138) for interfacing multiple instances of the lighting control network (136) together (see fig. 1A-B, and 8-10, page 4-5, sections [0065-0068]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify above teaching of Josephsoon and Haupt with Crookham, in order to provide user can potentially access this information from anywhere an Internet connection is available using wireless or wireless form the central control master (138) and network 136 to control of light and other electrical controller system (see suggested by Crookham on page 5, section [0066-0067]).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues the reference of Josephsoon does not disclose the master/slave relationship on the central control unit and light control units. However, the examiner does not agree. Since Josephsoon disclosed the central control unit (152 or 252) being configured as a

master in the network (150 or 250) (see fig. 1B and 2B, master is the control (152 or 252); and remaining lighting control units (102s or 202s) of the plurality of lighting units and the remote control unit (220) being configured as slaves in the network (see fig. 1B or 2B, page 11, section [0111] lines 3-12). In this case, the central control unit (152 or 252) of lighting control unit is configured in a master lighting control, and lighting control units (102s or 202s) configured is slave oriented network. Since one or more devices is coupled to a network may serve as a controller for one or more other devices coupled to the network (e.g., in a master/slave relationship). Therefore, the reference of Josephsoon is teaching the limitation of the claim.

Conclusion

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Trinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiners supervisor, Anderson, Matthew D., can be reached at (571) 272-4177.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(571) 273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tan H. Trinh
Division 2618
June 29, 2009

/TAN TRINH/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2618